

Bay area Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors

March 5, 2008

Board members present: Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Jim Hough, Hough, MacAdam & Wartnik; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antiques, Karl Bender, 3 B's Nursery; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks Gifts; Travis Burgher, BnT Promotions; Mel Campbell, Campbell's Vacation Apts; Eric Farm, Menasha Forest Products; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Sam Roth, Century 21 Realty; Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines.

Others present: Ron Opitz, South Coast Development Council; Judith Hansen, Southwestern Oregon Community College; Patti Denton, Prudential Realty; Chuck Freeman, City of Coos Bay; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber; Kathy Schmidt, Bay Area Chamber; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber.

President Ken Croes called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. Minutes were seconded and approved.

Presidents Report-You have been given the 2008 Board of Directors goals to take a look at. Before I became president of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce for 2008, I thought that being in this position for an entire year, was a very long time. But, the day after becoming president, I thought this is not very much time at all to get a lot done. I have scanned the landscape, attended IBO's and Business after Hours. I have stopped in on the Tourist Committee meeting and the Ambassadors meeting. I will try to make the rounds to all of your meetings. I also visited with a local business, a chamber member that felt alienated from the Chamber. After a very pleasant visit I believe they are back on board. I have also had the pleasure of presiding over two Executive Board meetings. I really enjoy these, they are very lively. We were able to bring a lot of clarity. Our Directors are very passionate. Finally as part of the Chamber 2008 goal, to better inform the membership and community about Chamber activities and accomplishments, Timm and I will update the Coos Bay City Council on March 18th. Get information to the Community, we are talking about a section in the Newsletter titled "What have we done for you lately", so that members can feel that there is a benefit to what we are doing. Another thing we are right on time with is the State of Oregon Marine Reserves. Crystal Shoji is the champion for that. We are very involved and sending out some great information about the progress. The Railroad embargo, we are waiting until we hear something positive so we can move that forward. Try to get a new generation of young people involved with the Chamber. If you met or know of someone that you believe would be a good addition, invite them to get involved with the Chamber. Develop local opportunities, based on the upcoming 2008 Olympic Trials in Eugene, the presentation that Deana did at IBO was great. There will be a booth at the Olympic Trials promoting our area. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and let people know about us. We continue to support the Ambassadors as they plan the 2008 convention. They are a lively group.

Executive Director's Report- Timm asked the board to respond by e-mail to him, why you are a Chamber Member and what does the Chamber do for you. We are going to compile the information, to tell the story and get the material out. I thought I would just quickly mention the BLM material which closed to

public comment on January 11th. They will respond to all substantive comments between January and September. Then in September release their proposed resource management plan and then finally be able to announce their new plans at the end of the year. The "Listen and Learn" workshops for the Marine Reserves ended on the 29th.

Timm introduced his new Executive Assistant Kathy Schmidt to the board. She is a very pleasant voice on the end of the phone and will answer questions for you. She bugs me on how to do things better. It's a wonderful thing. We are going to take a look and see how effective we can make the Newsletter. You will see some great things and many of them will be hers. We are happy to have her as part of the group.

You each have a copy of the 2008 budget. The Executive Committee reviewed it, recommended that it be approved for the Boards approval. There are a couple comments on the expenses. The expenses are down from last year, we had a couple of one time expenses and there was a pass thru to the Culinary Institute that was in and out, which isn't reflected on the budget. Expense wise we are looking quite well. Our Challenge is revenues, specifically memberships. It is a good organization to be part of. Therefore we have a good product to sell and get people involved. We need to develop the organization and develop revenue. We are going to look beyond membership for other revenue that is not membership driven. Membership is a challenge for this coming year. I ask for your approval for the 2008 budget.

Ken asked for a vote on the budget. The budget was approved.

Timm reports that he and Dick Leshley are working on a program, Work Drug Free in Oregon. The Oregon business plan has developed an initiative; they are trying to get this information out to businesses in the State. It is educational. You participate as a pilot site and they fund the majority of the cost. We are focusing on April to submit the application. Step one is having a committee of 6 or more business people that would insure that the material gets set up. We get the programs together and offer them to people in the community. Timm passed out copies of Roseburg and McMinnville plan. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Timm.

We have three Director positions open on the board. Two of our Directors have been promoted to Officers. Lila Sweet, after closing her business decided that she likes the organization but needs some time to herself. So Lila has resigned. If you have one person you think would be a good asset to our organization, they have great ideas and they are hard working, send me that name. We will put together a proposal and get those positions filled by next month.

Treasurer's Report- Jim reports there are assets of about 165 thousand dollars with cash of about 155 thousand dollars. So we have cash.

Ken invited Judith to report next.

Southwestern Oregon Community College- Judith reports that Chancellor George Kronstiener, OSU University System Chancellor will visit the campus next week. When we met last fall I asked him if he would come visit our University Center. You may not be familiar with the fact that our University Center is the only one in the state of Oregon that you can earn your Baccalaureate and Master degree from a Community College. Our University Center is doing very well. We are finally getting approval from Brookings City Council to build a Curry Campus north of Langlois. This Friday our trade school, Vision West will sponsor an Art Exhibit that will showcase over 200 High school students. Also Friday is our

first Truck Drivers Training Pilot class. I also wanted to share with you that we are one of the 8th National Colleges that have been chosen to be honored for our Pathways Program.

City of Coos Bay- Chuck reports that last night Chief Eura Washburn's send off was well attended. We will be interviewing three applicants for her replacement. Vicki Dugger gave a presentation on the downtown report. The frame work is being laid to move forward with urban development. The Hollering Place project had over 15 packets sent out. The City is also looking at a redesign and remodel of the Visitor Center building. The question was ask, if DSL would have any effect on the Hollering Place. DSL has no claims in the Empire Area. The Mayor is working toward a meeting with the Governor.

Charleston- Mel reports that the Crab Feed was a success. Thank you for your support. In August the Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting the Seafood Festival. Charleston has some wonderful business opportunities. We would like to be known as Coos Bay/ North Bend and Charleston. Charleston is doing well.

South Coast Development Council- Ron commented on the fine job that Ken is doing as president of the Chamber. Deana was at our last board meeting. She gave a very nice presentation on the Olympic Trials. She is asking for help to represent this area. This is a good opportunity to let people know who we are. Things are moving along, Oregon Resources Corporation made it through the LUBA process. They won on all issues. The opponents, a couple from that area, have until the 13th to file an appeal with the Court of Appeals. If they do that, we are headed for trouble. The cost to our client would be high. In the mean time they are excited to get started. This group is very enthusiastic. They started with about a 21 million dollar investment for the plant and that is now over 45 million. They have started the process to hire 70 full time employees with benefits. They are also taking a real leadership role in our Community, for example; the company has donated \$5000 to the Boys and Girls club, along with bringing in 70 full time jobs with benefits. We would hate to lose this company.

Ken comments that the mining that this company plans is green with low impact to our environment. They have proven to be trustworthy and would be a positive to our community.

Eric suggested that Ron speak with the COO of Oregon Resources, if he would be interested in a Director position on the Chamber board.

The question was asked if the 70 jobs will be entry level and/or trainable positions.

Ron responded that the jobs will meld with displace millworkers; some professional opportunities.

Coos Bay Downtown Association- Joanie reports that there are promotions planned for every month this year. Farmers Market will start about a week later than last year on May 14th. Search for Santa was a success and planned to continue next year. October fest and safe trick or treat brought a lot of people to the downtown area and will take place again next year.

Tourism- Joanie reports that the committee had a guest speaker, Tom Hibbert from North Bend Schools. They are looking for a fund raiser for around Christmas time. They have completed phase one and are working toward Phase 2 for the North Bend Pool. We are working on a promo for the Boardwalk, when the Tall Ships come. One idea is kites with Tall ship imprints. We hope to have activities planned to take place on the Boardwalk to showcase the Tall ships. As we all know weather can determine if the ships are able to stop here. Our hope is to have activities taking place no matter if there are ships or no ships. The Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington are planned to be here May 1-7. The Lynx will be back in June.

Ambassadors- Patti reports that Posto Bella had a Ribbon Cutting for their new Bakery. All Star Realty hosted Business after Hours Wednesday February 27th. Curl up N Dye will have their ribbon cutting Saturday at 2:30. We have 5 new ambassador members. A group of ambassadors are planning on representing the area at the Olympic Trials. In April we are planning a fund raiser “Junk in a Trunk” hosted at Umpqua Bank parking lot. If this turns out to be a money maker, we hope to hold another one in the parking lot at Pony Village behind Safeway’s.

CB/NB Tourism and Conventions Bureau- Mark reports that the Tourism and Conventions Bureau has teamed with another group, Beaver Hill productions, to represent the area at Sportsman Shows. We are working on a Convention Packet. Also working on a booth for the area, the cost will be about \$15,000. We are working on advertising for the Holiday lights. Last year the website had spikes after the ad ran. Attendance was up. About 34,000 people from all over the United States and other Countries come to see the Lights. We hope to be able to track response from the ads. Olympic Trials, we have been working on this project for sometime. A Prefontaine Promotional logo has been designed. Nike is providing T-shirts and tennis shoes for volunteers. We ask that you get involved. This is a great opportunity to showcase and represent our area. We are trying to get information out. Deana is the representative for the Chamber; I am one of the two representatives for the city of North Bend. We developed a logo and showed the cities and the Chamber. The logo was printed on about 20,000 brochures, then we heard some dislike it, but that was too late. We have 15 people on the advertising sub committee and spent about 65 hours in meetings. I feel that in the last couple of years we have accomplished more than we ever have. We have hired a full time person to run the promotions for the area. A web page has been developed at a cost of \$25,000. We hired an ad agency, Echo Design, from that we developed a brochure. We have hired a travel agency. Then we hired a full time person, from that we found out that there are a lot of things we can do with the help of volunteers. You are more than welcome to come to our meetings. We have Travel writers coming to visit the area. Katherine is coordinating the activities for the travel writers. Echo was impressed with OCCI and suggested possibly a crab feed while they are visiting. We have received a second grant to fund projects. We have plans to give money to the Ambassadors for their upcoming convention.

Forestry & Fisheries- Eric reports the Lumberjack competition was discussed at last month’s meeting. The competition will be the last Saturday in June, June 28th on the boardwalk at The Mill. Last year 700 – 1000 people attended. Next meeting will be March 21, 7:30 am at The Red Lion.

Leadership Coos- Pam reports that in February the Topic was, How we are Governed. The group toured Shutter Creek Correctional Facility. Each City did a presentation. We heard from Congressman DeFazio’s office and the Coos County Commissioners. This month the topic is Education in the Bay Area. We will hear from Coos Bay School District, North Bend School District, Private Schools, ESD, The Library District and representatives from several programs available in this area like SMART and ASPIRE. We will tour OIMB and SWOCC. The day will end with a tour of the Boys and Girls club. In May, we will have a graduation celebration for this year’s participants. We are getting ready for next year’s group. This is a valuable program and I invite anyone who has not attended or if you know of someone you think would like to attend, please have them contact me at the Chamber. I will put their name on the waiting list for next year. This program is limited to 30 participants each year.

IBO- Timm reminds everyone that Guy Tauer from Oregon Employment will be speaking at IBO today on the Aging Work Force. Next Wednesday Representative Arnie Roblan will speak. Looking down the road

a little bit, April 16th we will have an extra Government Affairs, Bob Main and John Griffith will speak. IBO's are every Wednesday 11:30 – 1pm at The Mill Casino.

Economic Development- Timm reports that there are 10 -12 people that are working on a couple of projects, one of them is to come up with a Cheat Sheet, compiled on our Economic Development partners. That information is to be organized and printed. That way people can refer to it when they are asked, who to speak with about business opportunities in the area.

4 Star Awards- Joanie reports there are no nominations at this point. We do need more cards to distribute to businesses, so their customers can fill them out and report on great customer service.

Government Affairs- Timm reports that the next official session will be April 30th. If you follow our rotation with County and City, we will do something State wide. We have a very good access to our representatives, so we have scheduled DSL Director Louise Solliday, speaking on State lands. Then before IBO's end for the summer, on June 4th or 11th we will have a Federal speaker.

Meeting Adjourn.